

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Board of Directors Meeting



Date: June 10, 2009
Location: Nain, Nunatsiavut

Resolution #: A09-06-11
Resolution Title: Approval of Polar Bear Research Methods

Moved by: Jim Lyall
Seconded by: Raymond Kayaksark

WHEREAS the Inuit of Canada continue to harvest and use Polar Bears in accordance with Inuit cultural practice to meet subsistence and livelihood needs;

WHEREAS the Inuit of Canada continue to harvest Polar Bears in a respectful manner that does not cause unnecessary pain and suffering or excessive stress on the animal;

WHEREAS the Inuit of Canada continue to harvest Polar Bears in accordance with rights protected under Inuit land claims agreements and Canada's Constitution, and in respect to the long term conservation of the species and the regimes in place that assist in the management of the species;

WHEREAS the Inuit of Canada hold a rich body of traditional knowledge or Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit of Polar Bears that dates back thousands of years;

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, the Inuit of Canada have serious and increasing concerns about the intrusive methods by which western science researchers are handling and gathering research data on Polar Bears that is causing stress and harm to the animals—namely through methods such as the use of tranquilizers, direct handling of the animal, taking bodily samples, collaring, paint marking, recapturing, and using aircraft to track, chase, and seize the animals;

WHEREAS these methods impact and interfere with the natural well-being of Polar Bears as well as the subsistence and livelihood needs and interests of Inuit;

WHEREAS the Inuit of Canada are deeply concerned that these research methods ignore, do not take into account, or do not respect Inuit knowledge or Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit on Polar Bears;

WHEREAS the Inuit of Canada regard accurate and useful human knowledge of Polar Bears as very important and should be gathered in a manner that respects the natural

well-being of Polar Bears, respects the subsistence and livelihood interests of Inuit, involves Inuit, and utilizes Inuit knowledge or Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Inuit of Canada reject intrusive methods of western science research, including direct handling methods, on Polar Bears conducted within Inuit Nunangat that cause excessive stress and harm to the animal;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Inuit of Canada reject the use of these methods on Polar Bears that directly or indirectly interferes with and impacts Inuit rights, needs, and interests in respect to Polar Bear harvesting, subsistence, and livelihoods;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Inuit of Canada call upon the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Governments, as well as the western science research community specializing in Polar Bear research to work closely with Inuit to develop and establish better methods and protocols of gathering human knowledge of Polar Bears that includes Inuit knowledge or Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, including through the development of technologies that will eliminate the need for intrusive methods of research on Polar Bears.

Carried Unanimously

In Favor:

Against:

Abstentions:

Carried: X

Defeated: